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ous and highly cultivated mind. Their subjects are wisely chosen; their illustrations are striking and original; and their expositions of Christian truth are marked by great breadth of view, and an entire consecration of all the preacher's powers to the work before him. His hearers as they listened to his eloquent words must have felt that they were in the presence of a man of more than ordinary ability, with a mind enriched by various culture, and a heart touched to the finest issues. As we read his discourses under all the disadvantages incident to the perusal of productions intended to be spoken, we readily recognize his ripe learning, his quick sympathies, his generous sentiments, and his earnestness of purpose.

The sermons are twenty-one in number, most of them delivered in the latter part of 1849, and apparently in the regular course of his ministry. Among those in which we have been most interested are a Confirmation Lecture on The Parable of the Sower, an Assize Sermon on The Kingdom of the Truth, and the sermons on The Shadow and the Substance of the Sabbath, and on Pilate's Scepticism. But surpassing all in brilliancy and power are the three Advent Lectures on The Grecian, The Roman, The Barbarian, — designed to exhibit the special characteristics and wants of the human mind in three great divisions of the ancient world, and to show how Christianity met these wants. They are equally felicitous in plan and execution. A fourth lecture on The Jewish, from the text, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not," completed the series; but it was never written out, owing to Mr. Robertson's "uncertain and suffering state of health." Its loss is much to be regretted. A second collection of Mr. Robertson's sermons has been published in England, and we believe a third series is in the press.

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15. — *New Biographies of Illustrious Men.* By THOMAS BABINGTON MACAULAY, HENRY ROGERS, THEODORE MARTIN, and Others. Boston: Whittemore, Niles, and Hall. 1857. 12mo. pp. xxii. and 408.

THIS volume comprises seventeen biographical essays reprinted from the new edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. In thus reproducing them in a cheap and compact form the publishers have rendered a valuable service to American readers; for the size and cost of the original work must have restricted any acquaintance with these papers to a very limited number of persons. The articles on Bishop Atterbury, Bunyan, Goldsmith, and Samuel Johnson, by Mr. Macaulay, are

undoubtedly the best in the collection. They are charming cabinet-pictures, worthy of the ripened powers of the great historian. Written in his most pleasing style, and adorned by the choicest fruits of his various learning, they leave nothing to be desired in the picture of the men or of their times. It is true Mr. Macaulay is apt to introduce strong shadows in painting character, and some exception has been taken to his delineations of Goldsmith and Johnson. But we cannot admit that these objections are well founded. However much we may be inclined to conceal or discolor the fact, it is undeniably true that Goldsmith produced on his contemporaries precisely the impression which Mr. Macaulay has described; and the portrait of Johnson is fully justified by Boswell's *Life* of him and by his own writings. Nor can we agree with a recent writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, in thinking that the historian has dealt too harshly with Boswell. We owe much to the conceited little Scotchman; but it is not easy to see how one can think well of him, or fail to perceive the wide difference between his character as a man and as a writer.

Next in importance to Mr. Macaulay's papers we are disposed to rank those upon Hume, Gibbon, Bishop Butler, Robert Hall, and Gassendi, by Mr. Henry Rogers, well known on both sides of the Atlantic as the author of *The Eclipse of Faith*, and as one of the ablest contributors to the *Edinburgh Review*. His keenness of analysis, closeness of reasoning, and liberal cast of mind are well shown in these essays; and in the whole treatment of his subjects we recognize the hand of an accomplished scholar. His papers contain much acute criticism, and his estimates of the intellectual characters and influence of the subjects of his sketches are candidly and judiciously expressed.

Another noticeable paper in the collection is Professor Blackie's essay on Homer,—a learned refutation of the Wolfian theory, rather than a biographical essay. Mr. Blackie is somewhat narrow and egotistical, but his arguments are able and ingenious, and he is thoroughly versed in the literature of his subject. His mind seems to be saturated with the influence of the Greek literature, and his "*Lays and Legends of Ancient Greece*" is one of the most successful works of the kind that has fallen under our notice.

Quite different in style and temper from Mr. Blackie's contribution is the brief and brilliant paper on Horace by Mr. Theodore Martin. In freshness and vividness of style, and hearty appreciation of his subject, Mr. Martin is scarcely inferior to any of his associates. The remaining essays are upon Addison and Bacon, by Professor Spalding, on Howard by Mr. Hepworth Dixon, author of a *Life* of Penn and some other biographies, on Sir John Franklin by another distinguished

Arctic navigator, Sir John Richardson, on "the Admirable Crichton" by Mr. David Irving, and on Sir Humphrey Davy by Professor Forbes. None of them demand especial notice.

16. — *Waverley Novels*. Household Edition. *Waverley*. — *Guy Mannering*. — *The Antiquary*. — *Rob Roy*. Each in two volumes. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. 1857. 16mo.

WE hope, while this edition is in progress, to illustrate at some length, and with adequate painstaking, the undiminished claims of the *Waverley Novels* on the whole reading public, and the position which they still hold unchallenged at the head of their department of literature. Why is it that the pioneer author always remains unrivalled in the kind he creates, as Homer in Epic Poetry, Æschylus in Tragedy? It may be that the very conception of a new type in literature is within the scope only of such minds as are strewn very thinly along the ages; it may be that the success, which the pioneer-writer owes in great part to his freedom from all rule and precedent, restricts and cripples the liberty of those who come after him, imposing upon them, as arbitrary canons, what were his personal idiosyncrasies. Certain it is, that, though the term *novel* was of earlier use and of wider significance, *Waverley* was the first specimen of an entirely new kind of fictitious composition, and therefore merited a new and distinctive appellation. And equally certain is it that, among the countless multitude of his successors, Scott has found no peer.

But our present purpose is merely to say that the edition before us combines all that can make it valuable,—the latest text, the author's Introductions and Notes, fair and strong paper, clear type, finely executed engravings, and precisely the size of volume which unites substantial beauty with ease of handling and of carriage, so as to be equally suited for the shelf and the journey. What and how sumptuous editions there may have been on the other side of the Atlantic we cannot say; but this is incomparably the best American edition ever issued. It is afforded too at so low a price, as to indicate at once the generous enterprise of the publishers, and their liberal estimate, in which we trust they are not deceived, of the continued or renewed demand for works, which, rapidly as they were given forth, created each a strongly defined epoch in the intellectual life of the last generation.